The research findings of the Anthropological Survey of India have considerable credibility and recognition. The Scientists of Anthropological Survey of India are associated with Planning Commission bodies, Inter-State Council Secretariat, Jarwa Tribe related development concerns and Forest Departments in respective Bio-sphere Zones of India. The publications brought out by the Survey have been widely reviewed and acknolwedged for their ethnographic worthiness.

Sufficient studies are done by Anthropological Survey of India on the social status of tribes of India. Around 100 books and 250 research papers have been published by the Scientists of the Survey on the subject.

In the Eleventh Plan, the Survey has proposed intervention as a strategy, instead of simple documentation of culture of tribals. In this respect the project on 'Man in Biosphere' is a pointer. While implementing the project, Survey has also initiated dialogue with conservator of forests and community leaders, so as to exchange field data based on intensive enthnographic studies of core villages in the biospheres.

Schemes for development of Dwarka city

†*472. SHRI DATTA MEGHE: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Dwarka city discovered by archaeologists at the sea shore of Gujarat in 1994 is getting destroyed due to sea waves and tides;

(b) if so, the efforts made by Department of Archaeology for its maintenance; and

(c) whether Government have formulated any scheme to develop this site as a submerged tourist spot?

THE MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) and (b) There were claims of discovery of a submerged city of Dwarka. National Institute of Oceanography had been conducting marine archaeological explorations in this area since 1983. Their findings include objects such as stone structures, scattered stone blocks, and stone anchors, which are datable to medieval period.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Objects on the sea floor are covered by sediments and vegetation growth, and experience the impact of waves and currents. This is natural process and cannot be arrested.

The Underwater Archaeology Wing of the Archaeological Survey of India has undertaken archaeological excavations at Dwarka since January, 2007. The excavations are continuing.

(c) Question does not arise.

Special Purpose Vehicle for infrastructure projects

473. DR. ABHISHEK MANU SINGHVI:
SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Chairman, HDFC Bank has submitted, in February, 2007, a report suggesting setting up a Special Purpose Vehicle abroad, for collecting funds there and then lending to Indian Companies and also to finance import of capital goods used for infrastructure projects;

(b) if so, when and where such a SPV would come into operation; and

(c) whether such collecting of funds from abroad will adversely affect our foreign exchange reserves in future?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) Yes, Sir. A Committee headed by Chairman, HDFC has submitted, in February, 2007, a draft report suggesting setting up a Special Purpose Vehicle abroad.

(i) to borrow funds from the RBI and lend to Indian companies implementing infrastructure projects in India, or to co-finance their ECBs for such projects, solely for capital expenditure outside India; and (ii) to borrow funds from the RBI, invest such funds in highly rated collatoral securities, and provide 'credit wrap' insurance to infrastructure projects in India for raising resources in international markets.

(b) The modalities of such SPV have not been spelt out by the Committee in the Draft report submitted to the Government. The final Report of the Committee has not been submitted yet.

(c) No., Sir.